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From the Office of the Director of Health

Protect Infants from Childhood Disease with Recommended Vaccinations

Each day 11,000 babies are born in the United States. These infants are all particularly vulnerable to disease. That is why it is so important to protect them with immunizations. By age 2, these infants should receive vaccinations against at least 13 childhood diseases, such as chickenpox, measles and mumps.

“Vaccinations are one of the most effective tools we have to protect infants from disease and death,” says the health department’s immunization coordinator Leslie Davis. “They not only protect the infant, they also help protect our community by reducing the spread of infectious agents.”

Springfield-Greene County will join more than 500 communities across the United States and 35 countries in the western hemisphere to promote the need for routine vaccinations for infants and children during National Infant Immunization Week, April 22-29.

Special events will be held all week at the Westside Public Health Center.

Monday (24 th)	1:00—4:00 pm	Springfield Fire Department truck and “McGruff”
Tuesday (25 th)	8:00—11:00 am	“Pluggy” the robot from the American Red Cross
Wednesday (26 th)	8:00—10:30 am	“Freddy the Fresh Guy” from Butternut Bakery
Thursday (27 th)	8:00—11:00 am	“Blood Drop” from the Community Blood Center
Friday (28 th)	8:00—11:00 am	“Leo” from the Greene County Public Library

In addition, the Westside Public Health Center, located at 660 S. Scenic, and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, located at 290 E. Central, will book additional appointments and walk-in clinics will be available. For more information call the Westside Public Health Center at (417) 874-1220 or the WIC Clinic at (417) 864-1306.

“Immunization programs have wiped out naturally occurring smallpox and polio and have reduced childhood vaccine-preventable disease,” adds Davis. “That’s why we encourage parents to make sure their infant receives all recommended vaccinations before age 2.”

For more information, contact:

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